

TORONTO FAMILY BULLETIN.

March 18th 1918.

Must make an announcement "right off the bat", as I've got some good, startling news. Billy's arm is well!! Had a fine letter from him last week and he very fully exemplified the fact that the writing arm was O. K.. Later paragraphs will pass on some of the news he gave me. Now that we know he is "able", hope soon to have word that others have recovered---you know who I mean.

Have also had letters from mother, George (2), Ben, Aunt Emma Wiley, and Mabel Parker. 20

Am ashamed that I did not get a Bulletin off last Sunday or some evening thereabouts, but I've been a regular "cut up" the past ten days, particularly the evenings, having taken in three championship Hockey games, two movies, and two concerts. Guess that is "making up" for some members of the family who are not in so fortunate a position. Besides all this "gayety", have done two or three evenings work in my office and the display window, so you can understand that I have not run up much of a light-bill on my landlord.

We are having all kinds of weather, good, bad, and indifferent--mostly the last mentioned. Past week has been very disagreeable, and has occasioned much sickness. Of our staff, Mr. Conley and four stenographers have been off duty all the past week, bad colds and sore throats. I had an unusually "lazy" feeling streak for about five days but managed to beat out any serious complications and feel fine and fit today.

Am expecting Mr. Biggs, the Winnipeg Manager, and Mr. "Big Stick" Whiteacre to visit Headquarters within the next ten days or two weeks. Will be glad to see Mr. Biggs.

We have a young married lady--Mrs. H. Lomb--from Seattle, in charge of our Player roll department, who used to know Raye at the "Broadway High", Seattle, name then was Jessica Murphy. Wonder if Raye remembers her. She is a large woman, sings beautifully, and also plays piano like an expert.

Our Toronto Store publisher was formerly at the Winnipeg branch and knows Phat quite well so he says. "Dug" Marshall his name. So you see, I have to be very careful how I uphold the traditions of the family. "P for me"!

This coming week expect to enjoy some more excitement and see the professional championship games of Hockey between Vancouver, winners on the Pacific Coast, and the Toronto's the eastern champions. Great crowds turn out here and the excitement runs high.

Will now get into the mail I have received and let you have some word from the others.

George's first letter dated France, Feb. 10th.

"Received your news dated Jan. 6th and was sure glad to hear from your section of the country. Also it was the first news I had had as to whether the folks had heard of our safe arrival, etc. Was glad to hear that they had received my card. Received a nice box from Hazel on the 6th of this month and it came through in fine shape. She had packed it in one of Ridgeway's 5 lb tin boxes and there were no corners torn off."

"We had a funeral here today, a young fellow who died in this hospital, and was given the regulation military funeral. It kind of brings things home at that.. Then I took in the moving picture show, so had rather a full day of events for this place."

"The show was fine, a drama, a comedy, and a tour. They really put on a nice program--took from 2 until 4.30, cost a franc (20¢) for a seat. Not so bad, eh? What!"

(George, cont'd)

"Hope that thw you spoke of in your letter became a realization, even if it could only show you those dead grey lawns. Any lawn is better than none at all. We sure have the real green grass here."

Second letter from George, dated Feb 17th, France.

"Your Bulletin of Jan 2nd came in today and it seemed funny to get one of earlier date than the 7th, still it helped to fill in the void and was more than welcome. I had letters from Raye, Hazel, Gretchen, and my Southern friends. It was a real newsy letter day for me and I sure did enjoy them. Went to church in the ~~morning~~ morning and to a movie in the afternoon so had a very entertaining day as it were."

"Poor Ben sure must have had some real tough times if the weather man treated them as reports call for. He has my entire sympathy as I think I know just what he must have suffered from th cold, and when there's any wind those tents are not what they are cracked up to be."

"The censor has said thta it would be all right to tell you folks that it was the "Tuscania" that we came over on. So you see that luck seems to be our way. Well, she sure was a fine boat and we all enjoyed our trip on her immensely. We were all surprised to hear of her being sunk as her Captain was quite a wise old boy."

"Enclosed you will find a photo of 'yours truly' which looks a little like me, but darned little. Still, it will show you that I am holding my own as far as weight is concerned. In fact I am in very good condition, hitting the scale around 170 pounds."

From Ben, Morrison Virginia, March 5th.

"I am writing to tell you that we are still here and you can pass the word along as I am feeling pretty 'rotten' tonight. Have had a sick headache all afternoon. Rather unusual for me, but none the less, effective."

"Am completely up in the air now about our going. We got the last word and final instructions last week and we all figured to be half way over by now, but you see how it is. Now, I think we are going to be here for a month or more, and have put in for a transfer to a headquarters squadron. That will keep me here as long as I care to stay. If I make the grade with my transfer, I will get a truck right away, and that will mean the end of this pick and shovel stuff which we have had for a steady diet here."

"I will let you know as soon as I find out."

From Mother, dated March 8th. Seattle.

"The Jaques have been here for nearly two weeks. Raye took down with cold and sore throat as soon as Billy left last Monday. She is miserable yet, but is going down town today and lunch with Mrs. Perry Willie. Audrey still carries a cold, and I do not feel any too frisky but so far I manage to step to the front line and salute on time. The weather man is handing it to us mighty strong now and for more than a week--freezes nearly every night and oh, such cold winds."

"Pha came in from No. Yakima Monday morning a mighty sick lad. Mr. Wade brought him out home in his car, and Monday afternoon the Dr. lanced an abscess in his throat back of his tonsils. Acted, I guess, something like quinzey. He looks terrible, but Bess just told me over the 'Phone that he was down stairs fixing tires and that Rita Ann was sick this morning. I imagine the whole "blooming" family will have their turn."

I am supposed to go to Red Cross this P. M. but can not do so as wind is so strong and cold. Dad sprayed all the fruit trees and Pruned what he thought needed it. We have done no other outside work--too cold."

Some man has bought the entire block on "Thirtieth" above us, and is putting all those big houses into rooming and apartments. Is turning Frinks garage around and making an apartment of it. They are clearing all this side hill up--quite an improvement don't you see?"

From Aunt Emma Wiley, Kimmell, Ind., dated March 11th.

"We have not been very well, any of us, and not very sick either. I have had a bad time with my eyes--have not been able to do anything with them for a month or more. This is the second letter I have written since then. My eyes are better but still bother me. They try to make me believe I have been knitting too much but I don't think so."

"My! What a long hard winter we have had and it is still cold. Have had but few pleasant days as yet. The friends and relatives of Noble Co., are all well and getting along fine. May and Nell Buckles were here Thursday."

"Shellie is still in Miss., Fort Shelby, Headquarters Co., 137th. Field Artillery. He is attending school learning to be a wireless operator and will be radio Sargeant of the Co.. He sent his extra clothes home last week so suppose ~~he~~ they are getting ready to go across."

"Chester has been trying hard to get in the work, but so far has been rejected. He will take another exam this week, but I hardly think he can pass. Prentice is in Class 2, so will not be called soon."

"I got a letter from George and sure was glad to hear from him. The boys are surely getting some experiences. We hope to hear soon of Ben's safe arrival. I will send George's address also Ben's to Shelley. It would be strange, but they might find one another."

"Bob says to tell you he still has the "broken arm", but is just as anxious as any of us to get your letters."

"We are expecting you this Spring for a long visit and will try and give you a good time. Don't disappoint us about coming out."

From Billy, Nanaimo, B. C., March 6th

"Have noticed that in several of your latest 'Bulletins' you have been getting after the Aurelius, Wiley, Jaques combination, so am hoping to beat the rest of the 'slackers' in corresponding."

"Mother is looking pretty well, but I know she is worrying an awful lot about George and Ben, altho she does not say much. Raye and Audrey are down there now, kind of livening things up, and will be there until I'm thru with the island. I spent last week-end in Seattle, went down from Victoria. The old burg is certainly going strong."

"Trade and commerce in B. C. is very good. Last year was a big one for most concerns, and am glad to say I made out fine."

"We all hope that M. & R. will plave you on the Coast this year, especially the Seattle folks--they sure seem lost with so many boys away."

From Miss Parker(Mabel) Chicago, dated March 5th.

"In July mother and I will be journeying westward to prove up in Montana. George (Parker) leaves the last of this month to put in a crop."

What do you hear from George in France? When the war ends, who will be half as interesting and wonderful as such as he! 'Behold the conquering hero comes' of our High School song will be a reality. Isn't it strange? The world quite dazes me and makes me wonder if I'm really here. Kindest regards to your mother."

This will be about all for today. Best wishes to all.